IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

- C2
- --1. (Amended) A bacterium belonging to the genus *Escherichia* and having an ability to produce an L-amino acid, which has been modified to increase an expression amount of at least one protein selected from the group consisting of the following proteins of (A) to (H):
 - (A) a protein having an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 10;
- (B) a protein which is encoded by a DNA which hybridizes with the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 9 under stringent conditions of 60°C, 1x SSC and 0.1% SDS, and which has an activity of increasing the ability to produce the L-amino acid of the bacterium having the protein;
 - (C) a protein having an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 12;
- (D) a protein which is encoded by a DNA which hybridizes with the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 11 under stringent conditions of 60°C, 1x SSC and 0.1% SDS, and which has an activity of increasing the ability to produce the L-amino acid of the bacterium having the protein;
 - (E) a protein having an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 14;
- (F) a protein which is encoded by a DNA which hybridizes with the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 13 under stringent conditions of 60°C, 1x SSC and 0.1% SDS, and which has an activity of increasing the ability to produce the L-amino acid of the bacterium having the protein;
 - (G) a protein having an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 16; or
- (H) a protein which is encoded by a DNA which hybridizes with the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 15 under stringent conditions of 60°C, 1x SSC and 0.1%

SDS, and which has an activity of increasing the ability to produce the L-amino acid of the bacterium having the protein.--

Please add the following claims.

C, 2.

- --27. (New) The bacterium of Claim 1, wherein the L-amino acid is L-lysine.
 - 28. (New) The bacterium of Claim 1, wherein the L-amino acid is L-glutamic acid.
 - 29. (New) The bacterium of Claim 1, wherein the L-amino acid is L-alanine.
 - 30. (New) The bacterium of Claim 1, wherein the L-amino acid is L-valine.
 - 31. (New) The bacterium of Claim 1, wherein the L-amino acid is L-histidine.
 - 32. (New) The bacterium of Claim 1, wherein the L-amino acid is L-proline.
 - 33. (New) The bacterium of Claim 1, wherein the L-amino acid is L-threonine.
 - 34. (New) The bacterium of Claim 1, wherein the L-amino acid is L-arginine.
 - 35. (New) The bacterium of Claim 1, wherein the L-amino acid is L-isoleucine.
 - 36. (New) The method of Claim wherein the L-amino acid is L-lysine.
 - 37. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein the L-amino acid is L-glutamic acid.
 - 38. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein the L-amino acid is L-alanine.
 - 39. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein the L-amino acid is L-valine.
 - 40. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein the L-amino acid is L-histidine.
 - 41. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein the L-amino acid is L-proline.
 - 42. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein the L-amino acid is L-threonine.
 - 43. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein the L-amino acid is L-arginine.
 - 44. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein the L-amino acid is L-isoleucine.--